

NEWS.

MR. T. S. BRANDEGEE spent last September, October, and November in collecting plants in Lower California.

DR. DOUGLAS H. CAMPBELL has been spending some time in Berlin, and is now in Egypt for the rest of the winter. His address is in care of Union Bank, London,

PROFESSOR W. L. JEPSON, of the University of California, has in preparation an illustrated book designed to serve as a popular guide to a study of the trees of California. Besides the descriptions, it will contain a key to the species, based chiefly upon the form of the leaves and other obvious or easily determined characters.

THE EDITOR of *Erythea* announces in the December number, part 1 (received January 17), that with the completion of the seventh volume *Erythea* will be discontinued. "Part 2 . . . will contain one or two remaining articles, *Erythea l'envoi*, and the title page and index to the current volume. This part will be ready within two months, or as soon thereafter as possible."

AT A RECENT meeting of the board of trustees of the University of Wyoming, the herbarium connected with this institution was officially recognized as the Rocky Mountain Herbarium, and the professor of botany in the University was named as its curator. In order that this collection of plants might be more definitely designated than heretofore, it was deemed advisable to distinguish it by some descriptive name. The above was chosen because it expresses the purpose of those who are endeavoring to build it up, viz., to make it an accessible and serviceable collection of the plants of the Rocky mountains. It is established on such a basis as to insure its permanency and it is hoped that it will find among the botanists of the mountain states so many friends as to insure its rapid development. While it is intended to make the collection a general one, plants of economic importance will have particular attention, especially forage plants of all kinds, useful and ornamental trees, shrubs, and herbaceous plants. Parasitic fungi, and, as far as facilities will permit, fleshy fungi, are to be fully represented. Such a collection will not only be of interest but of real service to the many students of Rocky mountain plants, and the cooperation of all botanists and collectors is requested. The present collection, nearly 18,000 sheets, is merely the nucleus about which the curator hopes to build, but such as it is, it is freely at the service of all botanists.

AN INTERNATIONAL congress of botanists is to be held at Paris from the first to the tenth of October 1900, in connection with the exposition. The committee of organization solicits the support of botanists of all countries and desires to have communicated, as promptly as possible, a precise statement of the general questions which they desire to have brought before the congress. It is necessary in order to make the discussions of the greatest profit in the limited time that the questions should be studied carefully beforehand. Some topics which have been proposed already and have been approved by the committee are these: (1) monographic studies; (2) species, hybrids and cross-breeds; (3) unification of micrometric measures; (4) influence of the nature of the substratum on the development of fungi. The president of the committee is M. le Sénateur E. Prillieux; the vice presidents, MM. Dutailly, Mussat, and Rouy; the general secretary, M. E. Perrot, l'École Supérieure de Pharmacie, Paris; the secretaries, MM. Guérin and Lutz; the members, MM. Bescherelle, Bonnier, Bornet, Bourquelot, Bureau, Camus, Chatin, Cornu, Drake del Castillo, Franchet, Guignard, Hua, Malinvaud, Patouillard, Roze, J. de Seynes, Van Tieghem, and Zeiller.

All botanists who notify the general secretary of their desire to become members of the congress and pay the fee (20 francs) are eligible. The fees are to be used to defray the cost of publishing the proceedings.

Public and general sessions, conferences and collecting trips, displays of fungi, and visits to botanical establishments are planned. Only members of the congress and delegates of French or foreign governmental departments will be admitted to other than the public sessions. Papers to be read must be sent (in full or in abstract) to the secretary before September 15. Speakers will be restricted to thirty minutes, and may not speak more than twice on the same question. The official language will be French.

FROM ADVANCE sheets of the eleventh annual report of the director of the Missouri Botanical Garden submitted to the trustees January 10, 1900, we select the following items:

The decorative features of the garden have been maintained as in previous years. In the spring a very small synoptical collection, representative of the principal natural orders of flowering plants, was installed in the central part of the garden, where it is proposed to continue it as a convenient means of enabling teachers in the public schools to demonstrate to their pupils the characters of the larger plant groups. The collection embraces 318 species, pertaining to as many genera, and representing 100 orders. . . . The total number of species and varieties now in cultivation is 9127, a net gain of 1118. 1840 plants were presented to schools and charities. . . . A definite count of visitors showed a total of 71,021 for 1899. . . . The herbarium has received the most important current collections, particularly those representative of the North American flora. In addition to some 5700 specimens,

largely of Vermont plants, collected by Dr. Ferdinand Blanchard, received in the early part of the year, in December about 8300 specimens were purchased from the estate of the late Dr. A. W. Chapman, of Apalachicola, Florida, of which some 3200 specimens had constituted his personal reference collection for many years. About these Dr. Chapman wrote:

There are about fifty volumes of them, ranging in thickness from one to six inches. When I was writing the first edition of my *Flora*, these sheets were spread out before me and the plants now remaining on them are to be considered typical; but since then many have been detached, some to make up the herbarium that I sold to Vanderbilt, and some that I sent to you and to Columbia College. Scattered through the volumes are my notes, descriptions, etchings, and guesses.

Neither of these collections has yet been inserted in the herbarium of the garden. The material actually incorporated in the herbarium during the year amounts to 32,890 sheets. . . . The present number of specimens in the herbarium is 340,350. . . . The additions to the library for 1899 include 642 books and 172 pamphlets. . . . The manuscript index has been increased by the incorporation of 9072 new cards. . . . As now constituted the library contains 14,287 books and 19,175 pamphlets (total 33,462) and 253,757 index cards. . . . It is hoped that the publication of a general catalogue of the library may be effected in the near future. . . . There are now received at the garden library 978 serial publications, of which 91 are bought and 887, issued by 688 institutions, are presented.